

She is astir early and late, measuring, weighing, directing, the embodiment of Proverbs chap. xxxi. No little brain-power must be required for the ordering of such a household and the meeting of such emergencies as that of to-day, when twenty Jelu men arrived unexpectedly.

The serving-men all look like bandits. The medieval Jester is in existence here, Shlimon, a privileged person, who may say and do anything, and take all manner of liberties, and who, by his unlimited buffooneries, helps the Patriarch and his family through the dulness of the winter days. He and another faithful fellow, said to be equally quick with his tongue and his dagger, are Mar Shimun's personal servants. At fixed hours the latter carries food to his lord in tinned copper bowls on a large round tray, knives and forks not having penetrated to Kochanes.

The routine of the day is as follows. The Patriarch rises very early, and says prayers at dawn, after which those who have the *entrfo* are served with pipes and coffee in his room, and talk *ad libitum*. Business of all sorts follows; a *siesta* is taken at mid-day, then there is business again, and unlimited talk with unlimited smoking till five, when the Patriarch goes to prayers at church, after which everybody is at liberty to attend his *le^de*, and talking and smoking go on till 9 or 10 P.M. It is a life without privacy or quiet. The affairs of the mountains, litigation, tribal feuds, the difficulty of raising the tribute, the gossip of the village, and just now, above all

else, the
excesses of the Kurds, form the staple of
conversation, as
I understand from *Qasha* , who, as a personal
friend,
spends much of the day in the Patriarch's
room. In
winter, when Kochanes is snowed up, chess
and the pranks
and witticisms of the Jester fill up the time.
The curious little court, the rigid
etiquette, the clank
of arms, the unbounded hospitality, and the
political and